on the recommendations of the Working Group set up under the Chairmanship of Shri S.S. Kohli, the RBI has drawn up revised guidelines for rehabilitation of sick SSI units, which include *inter-alia* change in the definition of sick SSI units, norms for deciding on their viability, etc. The RBI has circulated the revised guidelines on 16th January, 2002 to all the Scheduled Commercial Banks for implementation.

Payments due to SSIs from big companies

2465. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the payments due to small scale industries sector from big companies;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to ensure timely payment to SSI sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) To ensure timely payment due to Small Scale Industries (SSIs), Government has enancted the "Interest on Delayed Payments to Small Scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings Act, 1993. The Act was further amended in 1998. The Act provides for a legal framework to discourage the delay in payment of the bills of SSIs by imposition of penal interest on delayed payment and limiting the period payment by buyers to SSI seliers to 120 days. To ensure a speedy and simple redressal and recovery process for SSIs, Industry Facilitation Councils (IFCs) have been set up by various States as per the provisions of the Act.

(d) Does not arise.